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California's Natural Wildlands Legacy

South Coast

Bureau of Land Management
California

Stretching from Los Angeles to San Diego, this southeast portion of California maintains a reputation as a world class destination with an ideal climate and miles of sandy beaches. When people think of California, this is the area they think about. But there is much more for outdoor enthusiasts and nature lovers.

With one of the largest populations in the world, the landscape of the South Coast has been forever altered. But the South Coast bioregion also contains nearly one quarter of all species found in the United States, with over half of these species found nowhere else in the world. San Diego County is home to more imperiled species than any other county in the lower 48 states. To protect this incredible ecosystem, BLM participates in various multi-species and watershed planning efforts throughout the region to preserve and restore the landscape.

Just 15 miles east of San Diego lies the BLM's Border Mountain project area with over 60,000 acres of public lands, including rugged mountains of mixed chaparral and coastal sage scrub habitat. This region forms the border between the United States and Mexico and preserves a diverse array of rare plants and wildlife representatives of both countries. The world's largest stand of Tecate cypress is found here, as well as 15 other threatened or endangered plant species.

The BLM manages several reserves for the benefit of rare species. These special management areas include the Steele Peak Reserve, the Potrero and Million Dollar Spring Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, and Beauty Mountain Wilderness Study Area.

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Otay Wilderness

The Otay Mountain Wilderness, 18,500 acres of critical habitat and rare plants, forms the backdrop to the San Diego-Tijuana metropolitan areas. Nearby, the Kachamaa/Tecate Peak Area of Critical Environmental Concern protects the mountain considered sacred and a spritual center for Native American people in southern California and northern Baja California.

Santa Margarita River

The Santa Margarita River is the only free-flowing southern California river that flows virtually unhindered into the Pacific Ocean. Teaching and field research are the primary uses of the area. Continued partnerships, such as an existing agreement with the San Diego State University Foundation and the development of watershed focused partnerships help conserve the area's valuable resource. The rich riparian vegetation provides a breeding and summer habitat for the Least Bell's Vireo, a federally listed endangered species.

McCain Valley Resource Conservation Area

Established in 1963, the McCain Valley Resource Conservation Area encompasses 38,692 acres of the In-Ko-Pah Mountains. The area provides wildlife conservation, livestock grazing, and recreation, including camping, hunting, hiking, horseback riding, backpacking, mountain biking, wildlife viewing, photography, and off-highway vehicle use. In several steep canyons, oases of native fan palms are found. These islands of vegetation provide habitat for many desert species, including a population of Peninsular bighorn sheep.

Table Mountain

Table Mountain offers views of the In-Ko-Pah and Jacumba Mountains. Table Mountain provides opportunities for camping, hiking, and rock hounding. The Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and private lands border the public lands on Table Mountain.

"Conservation is the foresighted utilization, preservation and/or renewal of forest, waters, lands and minerals, for the greatest good of the greatest number for the longest time."

Gifford Pinchot

Your lands....*Your legacy!*

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After a 20-year wilderness review process, Otay Mountain Wilderness was designated in December 1999

The endangered Least Bell's Vireo once abundant throughout California, is now restricted mostly to the South Coast

The In-Ko-Pah Mountains provide wildlife conservation, livestock grazing, and recreation opportunities

Goals for the South Coast

Work with partners to implement regional conservation strategies that protect and restore native habitat and provide environmental outreach to urban communities.

Partnerships

The Nature Conservancy

Border Patrol

California State Parks

Imperial, San Diego and Riverside Counties

The Sierra Club

Desert Managers Group

San Diego Association of Governments

Trust for Public Lands

Wildlands Conservancy

Key Assets of the South Coast

- Otay Mountain Wilderness
- Santa Margarita River Ecological Reserve
- McCain Valley Resource Conservation Area
- In-Ko-Pah Mountains

1. Otay Mountain Wilderness
2. In-Ko-Pah Mountains
3. Santa Margarita River Ecological Reserve

South Coast

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
www.ca.blm.gov

California State Office
2800 Cottage Way Suite W1834
Sacramento, CA 95825
Tel: 916.978.4400

Palm Springs South Coast Field Office
690 W. Garnet Avenue
N. Palm Springs, CA 92258
Tel: 760.251.4800

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BLDG 50, ST-150A
DENVER FEDERAL CENTER
P.O. BOX 25047
DENVER, COLORADO 80225

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